

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Austria

DATE DISTR. 22 Dec. 1949

SUBJECT The Policy of the Socialist Party
of Austria in Relation to the
Association of the Independents.

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1. The losses which the Association of the Independents (VdU) inflicted on the Socialist Party of Austria in the national elections on 9 October 1949 gave rise to sharp discussions in the Socialist Party of Austria.
2. The policy of promoting the VdU in an effort to harass the Austrian People's Party was particularly advocated by Oskar HELMER, Austrian Minister of the Interior, and is now considered a failure. This^s believed not only by the left-wingers of the Socialist Party of Austria, but also by moderate trade unionists such as Johann BOEHM, member of parliament and president of the Austrian trade union, and pronounced Anti-Communists such as Oskar POLLAK, chief editor of the newspaper Arbeiter Zeitung. Right-wing functionaries of the Socialist Party of Austria such as Dr. Ernst KOREF, member of parliament and town mayor of LINZ, also believe that the Socialist Party of Austria must now turn against the VdU.
3. The provincial boards of the Socialist Party of Austria in Upper Austria and Salzburg are also divided on the policy towards the VdU. Edmund AIGNER, member of parliament, and Karl KRAMMER, secretary of the Socialist Party Board in Upper Austria, are hard pressed by an opposition which urges that strong action be taken against the so-called Neonazism.

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